

Faculty Senate Agenda
April 1, 2016, 3:00 pm
Delta Center, Second Floor Board Room 201

Called meeting to order at 3:03.

In attendance:

Greg Phillips, Julie Isaacson, Claudia Benavides, Sam Pae, Richard Segall, John Beineke, Ryan Kelly, Nikesha Nesbitt, Win Bridges, Hans Hacker, Warren Johnson, April Sheppard, Pradeep Mishra, Donna Caldwell, Larry Morton, Debbie Shelton, Amber Wooten, Jeff Jenness, Bruce Johnson, Fabricio Medina-Bolivar, Suzanne Melescue.

Proxies: Ryan Kelly for Julie Grady, John Beineke for Mitch Holifield, and Sharon Davis for Loretta McGregor.

Absent: Shivan Haran, Philip Tew, Claire Abernathy, Kyle Chandler, Bill Rowe, Mary Donaghy, Cherisse Jones-Branch, Larz Roberts, Michael Fellure, Rejoice Addae, Brinda McKinney, Bob Bennett.

Approval of Minutes of March 4, 2016

Amendments:

Beineke: On the 3rd page it should say interim Dean Gina Hogue.

Suzanne Melescue was here and was listed as absent.

Dr. Segall's proxy needs to be listed.

Motion to approve minutes as amended made by Win Bridges.

Seconded by Dr. Segall

22 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Old Business:

SGOC Proposals: 16 SP 02, System Revisions to Staff Handbook. Comments about the proposed changes:

President Phillips: Some of the changes are required by law, and others are made for convenience. For example, regarding Title IX HR suggests 21 days is not enough time to conduct a thorough investigation. The law allows more time, and this change would allow HR 2 or 3 more weeks to conduct a proper investigation.

Osabuohien Amienyi: We discussed this proposal at the Chairs council. And one of the comments was: If this is regarding students, why is it in the Faculty Handbook?

President Phillips: Because it pertains to faculty interaction with students. Yes, I can see why the proposal would call for this to be included in the Student Handbook as well. Would you like this to be a comment made?

Osabuohien Amienyi: I think the Chairs Council has already done that.

Motion with no comments made by President Phillips. Seconded by Jeff Jenness.

22 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

To remove Faculty Senate Bylaws from Faculty Handbook: President Phillips indicated that it is cumbersome to make changes to the Faculty Association Bylaws when it is part of the Faculty

Handbook and subject to full Shared Governance review. The Faculty Association Bylaws are properly the domain only of the faculty.

President Phillips moves that we recommend to the faculty association places on the ballot for or against removal of the faculty association bylaws from the faculty handbook so we can maintain ownership of that piece.

Seconded by Julie Isaacson.

Visitor: I am not a senator, but can I say something? If this goes thru we need to address two things. 1) Where will these things then live? I am assuming on the webpage and they will be under the direction of the secretary. 2) How would the bylaws then be changed? By majority vote of the Faculty Association membership.

Suzanne Melescue: When was the last time the bylaws were changed?

Julie Isaacson: I cannot remember when it was changed, if it was last year or the year before, but this body voted that we could vote electronically. Then it has to go to the board of trustees and they approve. We cleaned up several little things that were already in practice, like the definition of faculty.

President Phillips: I make a motion to remove the Faculty Association Bylaws from the Faculty Handbook.

Win Bridges: I think, only under very technical circumstances, the president should not make the motion.

President Phillips is willing to accept motion to remove Bylaws from Faculty Handbook. Win Bridges offers the motion and Julie Isaacson seconds it.

Any further discussion? In favor: 22, against 0, abstentions 0.

President Phillips wishes to go back to SGOc proposal 16 SP 02. April Sheppard makes motion and Jeff Jenness seconds. No further discussion. Votes: 21 in favor, 1 abstention, 0 against.

President Phillips: Thank you for your patience in working with the issues with online courses.

Dr. Beineke: There was a meeting of the AOS committee. The meeting was about the level of support we are being provided. During Spring Break the chair of my department received a memo from the AOS director saying the level of support from AOS would be customized to meet the needs of our faculty. I do not know about the rest of our department. I just want to thank Dr. Phillips, the members of the Executive Committee, and the senators for their patience with this issue. I am grateful to all of you in the room that were patient and supportive.

President Phillips: So your department now seems to be happy with the negotiated outcome and it appears you are now getting the level of support that you need. Even though it has only impacted a small number of faculty, there was a number of faculty whose workload was greatly impacted by these changes. The old model of faculty effort we operated under may no longer being valid with these additional demands being placed on our time.

New Business:

President

Phillips: No new SGOc Proposals have been submitted, although there may be one more before the end of term.

Mike McDaniel: There is one more change that will involve faculty from hiring until we leave. I would like to submit it, I do not know if it is feasible, but we are trying to get it done before the end of this semester.

Nominations Committee for 2016-2017 Officers:

President Phillips: I am not going to seek another term. I fulfilled my faculty citizenship requirement. I will still be Past President next year. I am thinking seriously about retirement in a couple of years. I was happy to serve in this function, but I want to spend my last years before retirement with students, and I would rather focus more on that.

We normally form the Nominations Committee with the Executive Committee. Two of our members have decided to run, so Julie Isaacson, Claudia Benavides and myself served as your Nominations Committee. Pradeep Mishra is standing for the Treasurer position again and Joanna Grymes is running for that office as well. For the office of President of the Faculty Association/Chair of the Faculty Senate next year Dr. Shivan Haran has expressed interest and Dr. Mike McDaniel has agreed to run.

The Bylaws have a procedure for self-nominations. The earliest we can vote is two weeks from today, we do not have to, but we could. We can take self-nominations until a week from today. The faculty as a whole will participate in the Faculty Association electronic ballot.

Suggestion: Would you like to have a 1 page bio from the candidates? I see a couple of heads nodding, so I will ask the nominees to prepare this and we will post that as well in the server. Also, as we just discussed we will also vote on the bylaws. So there will be 2 positions and the bylaws on the electronic ballot. The Faculty Senate vice chair position and secretary position are done at the first or no later than the second meeting in the fall.

Other:

Dr. Hans Hacker: I was asked by a chair and dean to bring this issue to the senate. What I was told is that at least 2 departments, possibly 3, have discovered that A-State courses are being offered at a university in Sri Lanka. These courses have appeared on Banner, and they are being offered by professors whom they do not know. It turns out they are being offered as A-State courses at that university. In the interest of not leaping to any conclusions I think it would be appropriate to ask the provost for clarification. To explain what is going on in those courses and if/why they are being offered for A-State credit.

President Phillips: Does anyone else have information on this?

Warren Johnson: I suggest we also contact the Director of Global Initiatives, who happens to be the director of AOS courses.

Fabricio: I understand there is already an agreement with this university in Sri Lanka and there are faculty going to teach courses there.

Hans Hacker: Apparently these courses are being offered this semester, or last semester, I don't know. If it is true it seems to bring some HLC concerns and HLC approval, as well as the faculty.

President Phillips: That is a great concern because if we cannot approve faculty credentials we lose any control over the curriculum. I will contact the provost for clarification. What Fabricio is describing sounds more traditional as an international agreement. But if we have people listed

as teaching these courses and nobody on campus seems to know who they are, that is concerning.

Hans Hacker: It is my understanding that a Dean has already sought clarification from the provost and has not received a response. Do we have to make a motion?

Win Bridges: It can go either way.

President Phillips: I recommend that at this time we leave it as a fact finding mission. I will pursue that and bring it to the next meeting or post it on the server.

President Phillips: Loretta McGregor has a proxy today, but she let me know the two committees she is on will have reports for the next meeting. There is another committee that will have a proposal for us next meeting, exit interviews. We may just have one SGOC proposal next meeting, but we will have 3 committee reports.

Motion to adjourn by Jeff Jenness, seconded by acclamation.

Submitted by Claudia Benavides, Secretary of the Faculty Senate